1:Beaglehole and Beaglehole E-5 (1934-5)1938 Pukapukans

Physical Characteristics

144 563 Anthropometric measurements made on 230 living adults have been forwarded to Dr. Harry L. Shapiro for analysis. About 25 individuals measured were of mixed blood; the remainder were full-blooded Pukapukans, an equal number of males and females. The amount of racial or of early interisland mixture is not great. Two Manihikian women, castaways, married and settled down on the island about 10 generations ago. Recent intermixture with whites is readily observed. There is no discrimination against or in favor of those of mixed blood. The average stature of Pukapukan men and women 142 is noticeably less than that observed for other Polynesian groups. Women are shorter than men. The presence of the epicanthic fold was noted in several individuals. The glabella is more prominent in men than in women. Face type seems to vary between a narrow, long face with a long nose and a wide face with a short, broad nose. It is possible that analysis will reveal two physical types based on these distinctions. Lips in general are thin or medium thick. The hair is black; low and medium waves are common. Body hair is scanty on both sexes. Skin color is a light brown which becomes very dark on prolonged exposure to the sun. The skin color of infants is extremely fair.

Motor Habits

516 Little sex differentiation was observed in motor habits. The common position in sitting is "turkish fashion". The legs are crossed with knees bent and resting on the inside portion of the sole of the foot, the outside edges of the feet resting on the ground. A common variation is to raise the right foot and rest it on top of the left knee. This is the position for all sedentary activities, whether mat plaiting, food preparation, sennit making, or simple rest. Only a man braiding sennit sits with outstretched legs; he loops the free end of the sennit round the toe of an extended foot to obtain a tension on the cord.

481 The bent-knee gait is common in walking. Apart from individual walking habits due to previous yaws infection of feet and legs, the common habit [164] is to walk with the palms hanging at the side and turned inward, the toes pointing straight ahead. Running and jumping habits seem to be similar to those of the ordinary unskilled white person. Children crawl on hands and knees and on hands and feet.

513 Both sexes lie and sleep (*moe*) in a wide variety of positions, on the side, 192 prone, or supine. The Pukapukan distinguishes by descriptive names more than thirty-five different types of sleep according to position, movements during sleep, and soundness of sleep. The amount of sleep for adults varies from 4 to 8 hours each night, sometimes with an hour or more of extra sleep during the day. Young children sleep whenever they are tired. Children

2:Macgregor E-2 (1933) 1935 Pukapukans

Physical Characteristics

At the time of our visit at Pukapuka the natives were living away from the village. For this reason it was impossible to make a series of physical measurements. The following notes sum up the observations made of those natives who came in from time to time to see our party.

The composition of the features differs from that of Samoans, Tongans, and western Polynesians. The faces of many Pukapukans closely resemble natives in the Tokelau Islands, a similarity that is startling in many individuals. Many Samoans have an Oriental cast of countenance in their high cheek bones and upward-tilted eyes, which frequently have a trace of an epicanthic fold. Most of the natives at Pukapuka have high malars and wide, deep-set eyes with no trace of the epicanthic fold. Prognathism is absent. Brow ridges are of medium thickness and the glabella is prominent, as compared with these features in Samoans and Tongans. I saw one markedly convex nose and several that were slightly convex. Many noses are long and relatively narrow for Polynesians, and many have sharply flaring alae, characteristic of Tongans. The root is low and concave. The lips varied from thin to exceptionally thick and everted, but the thick type is the commoner one. The hair is black, varying from a medium to a deep wave. The men have a medium beard, heavier than is common among Samoans. The skin color of the face is exceptionally dark for Polynesians, but this may be due to life on an atoll where a great deal of time is spent on the water and exposed to the sun. Both men and women had the upper parts of their bodies clothed, so I was unable to observe less-exposed parts of the body. The women were short for Polynesians and much shorter than the men.

Geography

The atoll of Pukapuka (latitude 10° 53′ S., longitude 165° 50′ W.) lies about 390 miles northeast of Samoa. Its nearest neighbor is Nassau Island, 45 miles southeast, an atoll which formerly had a native population but is at present occupied by a European planter and laborers from Pukapuka and Ellice Islands.

Pukapuka consists of three islets and a few small sand keys which together form a rough triangle with the apex to the north (fig. 1). The northern islet, Pukapuka, is about a mile wide. The entire population lives along the southern or lagoon shore of this islet. Motu Koe (Ko) and Motu Kotava (Katava, Kavata) are planted with coconuts, taro, and fruit trees, and are reserved solely as plantations. Each has a small settlement of shelters and houses which are used during the harvesting periods. Bryan (1) reports that the western end of Motu Kotava has one of the most luxuriant growths of vegetation on any atoll in western Polynesia.